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APR 1 1951

Dr. Meredith Burrill
Director, Division of Geography
Department of Interior
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Dr. Burrill:

Reference is made to your letter of 13 February 1951, in which you request the views of the Central Intelligence Agency in regard to possible acceptance of responsibility for foreign names standardization now provided by the Secretary of the Interior conjointly with the Board on Geographic Names.

For several years, particularly during fiscal years 1950 and 1951, this Agency has contributed to the support of foreign geographic names research and policy formulation, undertaken by the Board and its staff, through the transfer of funds to the Department of Interior. These funds have been made available in order to obtain foreign geographic names standardization and subsequent editing of manuscript and preparation of name lists for gazetteers to meet requirements of the National Intelligence Surveys program. The service rendered by the Board and its staff has been satisfactory and commitments accepted by the staff provided within the Division of Geography of the Department of Interior have been fulfilled on schedule. In view of Public Law 242, 80th Congress, this Agency intends to continue to ask for this service and to transfer funds therefor as long as funds from other sources are lacking.

According to Public Law 242, the Board, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Interior, formulates principles, policies and procedure to be followed with reference to both domestic and foreign geographic names, and decides the standard names and their orthography for official use. The Secretary of Interior shall provide, by this law, a place of meeting and staff assistance to the Board. The staff shall be responsible to the Secretary of Interior.

In view of the satisfactory service rendered to this Agency by the Board and its staff in accordance with the provisions of Public Law 242,

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